Afghanistan Child Protection Consortium Report Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth Cooperative Agreement EEE-A-000-03-000019 Fifth Quarterly Report April-June 2004

I. Introduction

The Afghanistan Child Protection Consortium consists of three leading Child Protection agencies; Save the Children/US (SC/US), the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Christian Children's Fund (CCF, known as Child Fund Afghanistan – CFA, in Afghanistan). The following report includes a consolidated summary of project activity to date and each organization's individual quarterly report. CCF/CFA consolidated the Report on behalf of all members of the Consortium.

II. Executive Summary

Each member of the Afghanistan Child Protection Consortium shares a common goal of improving the psychosocial well being and development opportunities of Afghan children. Using highly participatory community based, and managed structures, the Project works to identify and decrease the risks and threats to Afghan children's lives in both rural and urban environments. Each Consortium member brings to the Project its own model of working with children, youth and adults. This approach allows the Consortium to learn from each other and add to the development community's body of knowledge on how to implement effective Child Protection programs.

The Consortium partners met extensively during this reporting period to discuss the various aspects which influence child protection programming in Afghanistan. As a result of these meetings, a clear analysis of the lessons learned has been drawn from which the Consortium adjusted its vision and strategy for further project implementation.

The Consortium has submitted a project proposal to extend the current project agreement "Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth" to USAID / DCOF on the 13th of July 2004. This project proposal details how the Consortium proposes to further develop and expand its work in Child Protection in Afghanistan from October 2004 to October 2007.

During the reporting period, the number of attacks on humanitarian agencies and organizations involved in reconstruction work and preparations for Afghanistan forthcoming elections increased. Five MSF workers were killed on 2 June 2004 in Badghis province (between Heart and Faryab provinces). And on 10 June 2004, 11 Chinese construction workers were murdered 20 km south of Kunduz. Other attacks in the Northern region of Afghanistan included several incendiary explosive devices (IEDs) in Takhar and Kunduz and a general climate of provocation and rumor across the region. CFA has had to freeze movement between Takhar and Kunduz on several occasions during the reporting period, which sometimes has led to delays in implementation. Overall, the Consortium has been able to implement its activities according to plan.

An increase in violence and threats against international agencies is anticipated during the next reporting period (1 July - 1 October 2004) in the final build up for the elections. The three Consortium partners follow strict security regulations. Potentially, international staff of the three agencies will be relocated out of Afghanistan and offices will be closed in the last weeks before the elections take place (9th of October 2004). This could result in slight delays in project completion and evaluation.

III. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A. Program Goal and Objectives – To enhance children's well being by increasing community based capacity for children's protection and psychosocial support

All three Consortium partners use participatory, community based methodologies/models in implementing the Project. SC/US uses the Child to Child methodology, CCF/CFA its Child Well Being Committee (CWBC) and IRC its Community Working Group (CWG). All models promote and facilitate a meaningful dialogue between youth and adults in the targeted communities. While the mechanics of each approach is somewhat different, the end result is increased engagement between youth and adults on issues that youth identify as real, or potential risks and threats to their well being.

The Consortium Partners made good progress in expanding and/or embedding their respective participatory model within their respective target communities during the course of the 5th Quarter.

B. Beneficiaries

The Consortium Partners reached 35,522 direct child/youth beneficiaries with program activity during the Reporting period. Indirect beneficiaries number many more and will experience some level of improvement in their standard of living and levels of psychosocial well being as a result of the Project's community interventions, including teachers', community leaders and parents' training, micro-credit and income generating activities for parents from vulnerable families.

C. Project Location

The Project operates in the Southern, Central and Northeastern Regions of Afghanistan¹, targeting a mixture of urban, peri-urban and rural communities in 25 Districts in five provinces; Herat, Kabul, Takhar, Kunduz and Badakshan.

IV. PROGRAM PEFORMANCE

Goal – To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of poverty stricken, protracted conflict environment.

All Partners made progress on achieving the Project's overall goal. As noted earlier, all Partners either established, or expanded, the community based model of promoting a meaningful dialogue between children, youth and adults. In all Project Regions, the Partners facilitated a process wherein children/youth identified the real, and potential, risks to their physical and psychosocial well being and presented their finding to the adult leadership in their respective communities. Work is underway to address the issues (see below) that emerged in the course of this phase of the Project.

Objective 1 – Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.

Since the beginning of the program, the partners facilitated community meetings wherein 3,358 children/youth identified real, or potential risks and threats to their well being. Naturally, the issues identified reflected the child's local context, e.g., urban vs. rural communities. Key risk and threats, that children/youth articulated included:

¹ For precise detail on the Project's location, see each Partner's individual Report (attached)

- Lack of access to clean water or an unsafe water collection point. In some instances, the children reported outbreaks of violence in their community due to either insufficient water or an inequitable distribution.
- Education and literacy related issues were common to all locations. In some cases, access was a major problem in others the quality of education (overcrowding, poorly trained teachers, insufficient resources for the number of pupils, etc.).
- Lack of safe play areas for children. Common problems were the danger of landmines, pollution from uncollected rubbish, dangerous surroundings (e.g. rubble left over from the war) and a lack of space for recreation activities.
- General access to healthcare and, in particular, issues of childbirth came out in many discussions.
- Children voiced concerns about the poor economic situation in many households that resulted in little wood
 or oil to heat their homes, insufficient funds to pay for public transportation and in some cases children
 working.
- Early marriage, forced and arranged marriage and family exchange marriage are a major risk identified by girls, mothers and fathers in the West and the North East of the country. Underlying causes include economic constraints and cultural / traditional values.

In this reporting period, Save the Children's 141 Child to Child Groups identified, through focus group discussions, threats to their physical safety. CFA, in this reporting period, used different participatory methods to analyze threats in 30 communities it recently began working in, as well as re-analyzed threats in 40 communities it has worked in since the beginning of the project. Violence in the family and schools as well as kidnapping were identified by both CFA and Save the Children's groups as major threats to child well-being.

Objective 2 – Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed.

The Consortium facilitated the work of 301 community based children/youth groups that serve as the focal point for on going Child Protection activity in the target communities.² Concrete, child centered activity to address the issues described above, in Objective 1, included:

- 12 new water wells were constructed in this reporting period, resulting in a total of 79 that have been constructed or rehabilitated to date. Additionally, 117 wells have been covered in Kunduz in previous reporting periods.
- 13,462 children/youth attended literacy classes. Approximately, 61% of the participating children were girls. 2,482 literacy kits were distributed in West Afghanistan.
- 3,633 children attended non formal education in the North East in locations without primary schools in the proximity.
- 161 teachers were trained during this reporting period, resulting in a total of 502
- Construction of 11 Community Centers in West Afghanistan is completed, 10 of which will be used for home based schools.

² CCF facilitated 80 CWBCs, SC/US facilitated 139 Child to Child groups and IRC facilitated 20 Community Working Groups (CWGs)

- 4,670 children (50% girls) borrowed book from IRC's mobile library through the book sharer scheme. 1,350 magazines were distributed in West Afghanistan.
- Clean up campaigns in the North East continue. In the Central region, municipality removed rubbish from solid waste areas in Moosihee and 7 solid waste disposal sites are being constructed in Dogh Abad and Shairkhan.
- In Gul Bagh (Kabul / Central Region) a play ground was completed, from which 2,233 children benefit. In total 16,193 children are actively participating in recreational activity from improved playgrounds to organized football and volleyball teams. 241 sport wear kits, 381 pairs of sports shoes plus various equipment have been distributed to children in the targeted communities by IRC. CFA has distributed 600 sport shirts and various other sports and recreational materials to 30 communities where it recently started its community-based child protection program.
- 7,000 children participated in growing green spaces 2,096 horticulture equipments were distributed during reporting period, including trees, shrubs, flowers and tools.
- Through child friendly circles activities (a new initiative by IRC) 4,800 children participated in recreational activities, including role plays, drama, songs, competitions etc
- 2 community health workers were hired by IRC and are currently undergoing training with the IRC health department. Materials are being developed for use by community health committees. In the North East, all beneficiaries (whether in literacy classes, CCSs, CWBC communities) have received basic health, hygiene and sanitation education.
- 290 community members and leaders were trained in child rights, human rights, risks to children etc.

Objective 3 – Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

The various community based youth groups have identified those children who are particularly vulnerable and whom require special assistance. The Consortium partners are working with the local communities to respond appropriately. Some examples of current activity include:

- Inclusion of underage child soldier, widows and women heading households in vocational skills training courses, loan schemes and micro-enterprise training
- 631 particularly vulnerable women and 10 men have participated or are participating in training and have initiated small enterprises, ranging from animal husbandry, tailoring, carpet weaving and yoghurt making. 500 of the women are supported through CFA, and 131 women and 10 men through IRC.
- In instances where children are suffering from serious threats to their lives both physical and social threats the Partners are working with the local community and local government officials and other NGOs (e.g., the Ministry of Health, Merlin, Doctors without Borders, Afghan Independent Human Rights Committee, UNAMA) to ensure that the individual children and the community has access to an adequate level of services and support.
- Through the Child Protection Action Network in Kabul, a referral system for extremely vulnerable children is being developed.

• Through CWBCs, disabled children are encouraged to participate in formal education and community recreation activities.

Objective 4 – Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

- Each Consortium Partner is the focal organization for the Afghanistan Child Protection Network in its respective Region of work (SC/US in the Central Region, IRC in the Southern Region and CCF/CFA in the Northeast). Each Partner hosts monthly meetings on the Network in their respective Regions and is in regular dialogue with Regional government authorities and NGOs working in their respective areas. These meeting focused on a range of Child Protection related issues including; child trafficking, road safety, early and forced marriage and juvenile justice.
- IRC serves as the focal point for the Global Movement for Children (GMC) activities in Western Afghanistan.
- The Consortium participated in the completion of the National Action Plan to combat child trafficking in Afghanistan. In this workshop all relevant ministries (e.g. Justice, Social Affairs, Security, Foreign Affairs, Interior), international and national agencies participated. The final action plan will be presented to the President of Afghanistan's office for his endorsement in July 2004. This will facilitate necessary follow-up and implementation by the relevant ministries.
- SCUS through its Child Protection Action Network (CPAN), is cooperating with regional CPANs to establish a national database on child protection issues, actors and service providers. The database will be completed by the end of July 2004.
- SCUS is continuing its Butterfly Campaign, which began in December 2003. The aim is to highlight a global, shared responsibility to protect Afghan children. 25,000 blue butterfly-shaped ribbons have been distributed to various persons, including police officers and government officials in Kabul.

V. RESOURCE USE/EXPENDITURE

The Partners will forward an analysis of forecast Project expenditure to USAID/DCOF shortly.

- A. Resources Committed Budget report submitted under separate cover
- B. Expenditures Budget report submitted under separate cover

Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program

CCF/CFA Fifth Quarter Report

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – Christian Children Fund working in Afghanistan as Child Fund Afghanistan

Organization: Child fund Afghanistan	Date: 12 July 2004					
Mailing Address: Main Taimany Road	Contract Person: Richard Thwaites					
House # 75	Telephone : 070-203638					
Kabul, Afghanistan	Email: rdthwaites@yahoo.co.uk					
Program Title: Child Protection and Psychosocial Su	pport Program					
Country: Afghanistan						
Period Covered by this report: April-June 2004						

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A. Goal: to improve in a sustainable manner the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.

The program has four objectives:

- 1. Identify common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities.
- 2. Develop community based projects to address child protection threats.
- 3. Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.
- 4. Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

CCF believes that community based child protection programs offer a sustainable base needed to overcome problems children are faced with in rural Afghanistan. The problems children are faced with are complex and multiple and are rooted in the protracted conflict environment, absence of rule of law, extreme poverty and traditional child unfriendly practices. Struggle for daily survival means making decisions that compromise long term benefits deriving from education, investment in children and women's health, investment in meaningful employment for youth and agriculture.

To address these problems, CFA invests in local child focused entities (Child Well Being Committees) in Afghan rural areas. These are the driving force behind realizing an improved child protection climate in the target area. Child Well Being Committees CWBC) are the core of CCF's child protection program and enable children and youth to voice and address their concerns in their communities. These committees empower communities to mobilize themselves to work jointly on projects contributing to the security, safety and well being of children, youth and vulnerable families in their communities.

B. Beneficiaries:

In this reporting period, 16,604 children directly benefited from the project activities. A total of 25,081 children have directly benefited from the project from the beginning of the project.. Activities include literacy classes, non formal education opportunities through Child Centered Spaces (CCSs), recreational activities, literacy classes, civic works and vocational training. Indirectly, approximately 48,000 children in the 70 communities where CFA has conducted teacher training in child centered and child friendly teaching methodologies, parents and community leaders training, health and mine risk education programs and clean up campaigns, have benefited.

C. Location: Communities in the three northeastern provinces: Badakshan, Kunduz and Takhar:

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Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD BENEFICIARIES (TRAINED / IN ACTIVITIES DURING REPORTING PERIOD)

Province	District		y classes			Vocati trainir	onal ig (age	Child Center	red	Child Being	Well	Teache trainin		Commun	·
		Under		Above		15-20)		Spaces		Comm				training	
		Male	Female	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	Faizabad	0	0	0	0	20	10	0	0	0	0	4	14	0	0
1. Badakshan	Baharak	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	55	55	0	0	0	0
	Shohada	0	34	0	176	0	0	0	0	55	55	0	0	0	0
	Jurm	0	83	0	427	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Daraem	0	0	0	0	0	0	106	594	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Zebak	26	49	4	251	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Argo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Eshkahim	0	74	0	376	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Khustak	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	800	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	26	240	4	1,221	0	0	406	1,394	110	110	4	14	0	0
	Qalazai	760	335	69	104	0	0	0	0	22	22	50	0	28	32
2. Kunduz	Imam Sahib	743	608	106	188	0	0	277	155	33	33	0	0	25	25
	Chardara	842	843	122	165	0	0	205	126	11	11	0	0	56	0
	Aliabad	557	375	98	123	0	0	265	305	44	44	43	0	45	0
	Total	2,902	2,161	395	655	0	0	747	586	110	110	93	0	154	46
3. Takhar	Farkhar	152	73	88	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Khujaghar	160	0	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Kalafgan	91	0	29	0	0	0	123	77	40	40	0	0	0	0
	Bangi	262	19	158	11	0	0	183	117	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hazar S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Taloqan	235	1,050	245	560	0	0	0	0	60	60	0	0	0	0
	Total	900	1,142	640	618	0	0	306	194	100	100	0	0	0	0
Total		3,828	3,543	1,039	2,494	0	0	1,459	2,174	320	320	97	14	154	46

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Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth ACCUMULATIVE BENEFICIARIES (TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES FROM BEGINNING OF PROJECT)

		Litera	cy classes			Vocat		Child		Child	Well	Teacher		Comm	
Province	District	Under	18	Above	18	traini 15-20)	ng (age	Center Spaces		Being Comm	ittees	traini	ng	leaders trainin	
		Male	Female	M	F	M	F	•	Male	Femal e	M	F	M	F	
	Faizabad	0	0	0	0	20	10	0	0	0	0	25	25	50	50
1. Badaksha	Baharak	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	55	55	25	25	50	50
n	Shohada	0	34	0	176	0	0	0	0	55	55	25	25	0	0
	Jurm	0	83	0	427	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0
	Daraem	0	0	0	0	0	0	106	594	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Zebak	26	49	4	251	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Argo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	88	88	0	0	0	0
	Eshkahim	0	74	0	376	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Khustak	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	800	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	26	240	4	1,221	20	40	406	1,394	198	198	75	125	100	100
	Qalazai	2,010	650	181	198	30	10	0	0	66	66	50	0	28	21
2. Kunduz	Imam Sahib	1,300	1,229	165	318	10	0	265	125	77	77	26	32	25	25
	Chardara	953	930	181	198	0	0	312	300	55	55	49	0	56	0
	Aliabad	1,005	636	259	195	0	10	348	164	88	88	43	0	45	0
	Kunduz	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	5,267	3,740	962	1,119	40	10	925	589	286	286	168	32	154	46
3. Takhar	Farkhar	273	169	172	146	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	29	0	0
	Khujaghar	570	125	380	100	24	36	612	348	80	80	0	0	0	0
	Kalafgan	126	0	54	0	40	0	123	77	0	0	53	0	0	0
	Bangi	262	19	158	11	0	0	198	302	10	10	28	0	0	0
	Hazar S.	85	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Taluqan	470	1875	410	1145	30	20	0	0	130	130	13	35	0	0
	Total	1,786	2,188	1,224	1,402	94	56	933	727	260	260	130	64	0	0
Total		7,079	6,168	2,190	3,742	154	106	2,264	2,710	744	744	373	221	254	146

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Objective # 1: Identify common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities.

CFA Indicator and Current Measures:

- 70 Child Well Being Committees have been established in the northeast: 26 in Kunduz, 26 in Takhar and 18 in Badakshan.
- 140 community mobilizers have been trained to assist children and communities to identify and address protection risks.
- 140 risk maps have been produced and clearly indicated the nature and location of the physical risks to children 1,400 children participated in additional risk identifying methods, including body mapping (developed by Save the Children Alliance), the children's perspective (including exercises by which children describe /draw their day, their work or who matters in their lives (developed by *Woodhead, M., 1998, Children's Perspectives on their Working Lives, Save the Children, Sweden*). These different techniques enable children to identify the threats to their well-being.
- Group discussions with children were held to further analyze the threats identified by children and to rank the different risks. Through role plays the risks were then presented to the community, followed by community action planning to overcome the selected risks.
- Risks identified included:
 - o Limited economic opportunities; children complain about heavy labor. Children dream of having clothes, pens and papers necessary to attend formal education.
 - o Children want more play opportunities and time to play.
 - Security issues linked with commanders including trafficking, property issues and poppy growth - are of great concern to communities.
 - Access to clean water
 - Health care is far away
 - o Absence of formal school in their or neighboring communities (not all communities)
 - o Early marriage still poses a threat to girls
 - o Domestic violence and physical punishment in schools continue to take place
 - o limited infrastructure (preventing access to school, health care, market etc)
 - Physical threats posed by mined areas and wild animals and guarding dogs.

The identified methods / activities to overcome the above mentioned threats are lined out under objective two.

Objective #2: Develop community based projects to address child protection threats

CFA Indicator and Current Measures:

CWBCs activities:

In the reporting period, 60 (30 female and 30 male) new CWBCs were trained in 30 communities spread over Badakshan, Kunduz and Takhar provinces. The training focused on action planning, community mobilization, child rights (Convention on the Rights of the Child, children in Islamic law), trafficking, early marriage, non violent conflict resolution skills and tolerance, personal and environmental hygiene (including recognizing major diseases and prevention), promoting girls education, recreational activities for children, mine risk education etc.

In 70 communities, CWBCs were engaged in community mobilization to overcome threats to children's well-being as well as providing follow up on individual protection cases. Typical weekly activities of CWBCs include: encouraging people to send their children to school and follow up where children are prevented from going to school; providing health education to community members and advising when a health problem has occurred (in this reporting period, there have been several

occasions where CBWC members have provided awareness trainings on the danger of poppy and mines in neighboring villages after related incidents had occurred); mobilize their communities to jointly clean their community, e.g. clean ditches / fill still standing water, to collect and get rid of garbage preventing health risks etc.

Specific examples where CWBCs, at the request of community members, interfered in family affairs include cases of forced marriage of girls under 18, which were discussed with the parents and the marriages successfully delayed; cases of abused women by their husbands, which were reported to UNAMA and the Women's Affairs Office, and at times taken to court; cases of children neglected by stepparents, which was discussed with the stepparents and the community elders, and now constant monitoring takes place to ensure the situation has and remains improved.

Civic works:

In this reporting period, civic works projects took place only in Badakshan: Five wells, two small bridges, and two water storages were constructed. The communities worked together on these projects (e.g. constructing bridges with stones, sand, pebbles etc). Through these projects four villages have access to safe drinking water and the bridges have facilitated commuting to schools, health clinics and market places.

The civic works projects in both Takhar and Kunduz province were completed at the end of March.

Literacy classes:

In this reporting period, a total number of 10,904 students participated in CFA literacy classes, of whom 7,371 were children., A total number of 19,179 students participated in CFA literacy classes, of whom 13,247 were children, since the beginning of the project.

3,018 graduated students (from CFA literacy classes) have successfully entered government education. These students are all under 15 years old as Afghan law does not allow children older than 15 to enter primary education.

The literacy classes cover literacy / numeracy, life skills, and the first three grades of primary education. This curriculum is an accelerated version of formal education: the first three years of primary school can be completed in 1.5 years. After this, official exams must be passed at the Department of Education in order to be accepted into the fourth grade of formal schools (similar as to when completing Government run literacy classes). The curriculum covers a wide range of issues, including health education, MRE, conflict resolution, personal and environmental hygiene, youth leadership, respect for the convention of the rights of the child, and respects for human rights. The curriculum also includes recreational activities such as reciting poetry and story telling. These activities are designed for youth and also for older people.

Non formal education through Child Centered Spaces (CCSs):

In this reporting period, 3633 children have benefited from non formal education through CCSs. CCSs continue to provide elementary learning opportunities as well as recreational facilities and basic life skills, including peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms, very basic health education and play opportunities with their peers. This contributes to children's social, cognitive, emotional, spiritual, and physical development and thus to their psychosocial well-being; children learn to play and interact in a peaceful way as well as learning essential skills for further general development. Many children join formal schools situated at further distances after completing three years in CCSs.

The decrease of children attending CCSs, is a result of the following: CCSs are providing services where the government or the community should take a leading role. Therefore CCF is in continuous dialogue with the communities and district departments of education to identify sustainable solutions offering education in remote areas. In some areas, this has resulted in communities or the departments of education taking over the responsibility of running and paying for the CCSs. In this reporting

period, 26 of the 59 CCSs have been replaced by either formal government schools or community managed education.

Teacher Training:

In the reporting period, an additional 120 teachers were trained in child focused teaching methodologies, listening skills, health and nutrition education (including recognition, treatment and prevention of main child killing diseases), child development, non violent conflict resolution, applying rules and regulations in a child friendly manner, child participation, child rights, human rights, risks to children, etc. The 120 teachers trained were either teachers in the CWBC communities or in schools close to these communities, teachers in the Child Friendly Spaces, or of CFA literacy classes.

Students whose teachers were trained, report the following: Ziaratullah son of Hayatullah, from Ghaghraq Qushlak, in Kunduz province says: our teacher, Nasim, was always beating us with a stick, then he was absent for a few days and we had another teacher, because Nasim was on training. When he returned, he did not have his stick with him any more and stopped beating us. We are very happy with him now. Instead of beating us, he advises us.

Vocational training:

In the current reporting period, no vocational training took place. All 260 vocational graduates completed their courses in the previous reporting periods. Most of the youth, as monitored by CFA child protection staff, are currently working in the vocation they were trained in. Examples include:

Nasir, 17 years old from Fayzabad district, says: "I have just completed CFA's vocational training. Before this, I was not working and did not have an income to support my family. I joined the mechanic training and graduated after six months. I was given all the material I needed to start a business. Now I work independent for myself. I earn approximately 200 / 300 Afghani per day that I work. I spent 250-300 for food and other living costs. To date I have earned 2,100 Afghani."

"I am Haibulah and 16 years old. I am from Nowabad village in Khojaghar district in Takhar. I was a soldier before. Since then I have attended a carpentry training. I have completed this course and now I have opened a carpentry shop in my village. People were not treating me with respect before and now I and other people are proud of the work I do. I earn 200 to 300 Afghani per day. The money I earn, I spend on food costs for my family and for clothes for my brother and sister so they can go to school."

"I am Tashbibi daughter of Manqul, 17 years old, from Ghaawqushlaq village, Chardara district, Kunduz province. I graduated from the tailoring course in the village. I have received my own sewing machine upon completion. I am now sewing clothes and dresses for people from my village. I earn 500 Afghani per month. My father is very poor, so I use this money to help my family and little brothers and sister. My father is very happy with me."

Recreational activities and Youth Clubs:

In the 70 CWBC communities, approximately 5,600 children (roughly 40 boys and 40 girls per community) directly participate in daily recreational activities.

CCF believes it is a right of children to have access to play, which stimulates their social, physical and cognitive development. Sports teams help youngsters learn to be young again as they form new alliances. If appropriately conducted, sports are excellent venues for learning teamwork, nonviolent handling of conflict and physical communication. In the 70 CWBC communities, 140 youth clubs are active, of which 70 girls and 70 boys clubs. The girls clubs organize rope jumping competitions, they sing songs, dance, make music, and play badminton. Girls clubs also discuss problems they face, which they can then put forward to the CWBCs to identify solutions for. Other activities have included calligraphy lessons and painting. In all communities, 2 boys' football teams and 2 boys' volleyball teams have been established. Tournaments between different communities take place where communities are close to each other. The youth clubs are responsible for maintaining the recreational

material in an appropriate manner. The clubs persuade youth not to use drugs or narcotics. Discussions about possible prevention of child trafficking and child soldiering also take place.

Examples of how the activities have impacted children's lives:

"My name is Mohmodullah, from Due Sheikh village in Takhar. I am 15 years old. Before the sport teams started, I was free after school and walked on the streets alone, which made me think too much and some times I fell ill. Now that the youth clubs are established, I play volleyball every day from 6 to 7 'o clock. I am now healthy, and feel happy and have made new friends.

"My name is Baba Noor, I come from Durman village in Chardara district. I am a member of the youth club in Durman village. In the village, there is a boy called Barirullah, 13 years old, who was always fighting us, when we walk to school. One day I told him: my brother, you are very young and able to learn and study easily, please go to school and you will be a good reader and writer. Then I also talked to his father and persuaded him to send his son to school. Now Barirullah is in school and can read and write."

Community Leaders Training:

In this reporting period, 200 community leaders were trained. The community leaders not only came from the CWBC villages, but also from surrounding villages. Subjects of the training included: health messages including prevention and treatment of main child killing diseases-, rights of the child, non violent conflict resolution skills, importance of education, risks of early marriage, child trafficking, child development and importance of recreation for children. These are not one-time trainings, but is an intensive part of the constant guiding and backstopping that CFA's social workers provide to the communities it works in.

Sheikh Ali, a Hazara village in Takhar, where a CWBC has been established, was involved in an old rivalry with its neighboring Pashtun village: revenge killings took place and villagers did not talk to each other. Through CCF's facilitation of meetings and peace talks, the elders of the two villages have settled the dispute. Now the two communities are constructing roads together, the children go to the same school and mixed sport teams have been established. This cooperation toward the achievement of shared goals is a powerful tool for improving relations in a context saturated with ethnic tensions.

One man from Gharawqushlaq village in Chardara district, Kunduz, said: I am 68 years old and from this village. When I received training about safe drinking water and about the rights of children, it was new and good information. Before the training, we did not send our children to school and we were drinking water from the river. Now we use safe drinking water from a hand pump well and we send our children to school as this is one of the rights of children.

Objective#3: Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

CFA Indicator and Current Measures:

Advocacy for inclusion and participation

CWBCs actively advocate for inclusion and participation of vulnerable children in formal education and community life. They assist these children in carrying their bags if necessary and conduct awareness in the schools about the importance of inclusion for vulnerable children. CWBCs also talk to parents of the children who are not attending school because of minor disabilities and work on a plan with teachers to give children special help where needed. There are numerous examples where children with disabilities have joined school following CWBC intermediation.

In all CFA's literacy classes, vocational trainings and CCSs, vulnerable children and youth participate(including children who were previously involved with armed forces), as well as children with disabilities, orphans, and recently returned children.

Revolving Loan Fund:

In the 40 original CWBC communities, CFA has established loan groups totally comprising of 500 women. The women were identified through the CWBCs, based on their families' socio-economic conditions. Every community based women group identified an area in which they'd like to get involved, which to date has included carpet weaving, livestock, bakery, confectionary, leather making, and some tailoring. The men (husbands, brothers, or sons) were trained at the same time as the women. This is for cultural reasons. Following the training the man and woman from one family then both sign the contract. The training consists of four sessions. During these sessions there are group solidarity exercises, group officers are elected, income sheet training, and financial management training. The loans are part of a revolving fund that can be used again and again by the clients as long as they repay their loans. The project is in close cooperation with women NGOs in the three provinces. These women's NGOs will continue to administer the loan fund after CFA phases out.

As Lalbibi from Qarakhani village in Chardara district, Kunduz province reports: "I am the poorest woman of the village. My husband died so I am a widow and I don't have an older son who can take care of me. Before I received the loan, I faced many problems. When I got a loan from CFA I bought a cow. I sell the milk. The income I get from this improves the life for myself and my children. So we are happy now."

Health Care

In addition, CFA in the different provinces entered agreements with health NGOs and the Department of Health: CFA staff were trained in identification and basic treatment of common diseases. Following this training, CFA ensured medical and health education follow up for a number of seriously ill children and women. As a result of the opium harvest within the last three months, CFA found many children suffering after having swallowed opium. Thus, CFA conducted awareness campaigns in areas legendary for opium plantations.

A few examples where CWBCs and CFA staff provided necessary follow up:

A boy in Baharak village in Badakshan who had missed school for the last two years due to an infection in his bone was introduced to a medical NGO by CFA. The boy was transported to Kabul where his leg was operated on and he is now in school. Other examples include medical follow up for a boy in Taloqan district, was been bitten by a dog and suffered from multiple infections following this incident. The boy is an orphan and was denied medical care. The local CWBC village discussed this with CFA, who took the boy to a clinic where he received the necessary medical assistance. The CWBC, with assistance from CFA staff, has followed up with the caretakers of the boy who promised to take good care of the boy. Follow up monitoring continues to take place.

Objective #4: Advocate for actions on child protection issues at provincial and national level.

CFA Indicator and Current Measure:

In the current reporting period, CFA co-shared three monthly Human Rights / Protection Working Groups in Takhar and Kunduz. Protection issues will be followed up on with the committee working group participants including UNAMA, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Committee (AIHRC), Departments of Women Affairs, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF and rights NGOs. Examples include: CFA reports on sexual and gender based violence cases in the communities it works, which is then followed up by UNAMA, AIHRC and the Women Affairs Departments, who ensure legal steps are taken (all with consent and full protection of survivors) and counseling is offered to the women; 12 cases of kidnapped children have been reported of whom 10 were released and 2 are still missing. UNAMA ensures that the police investigate trafficking crimes and CFA conducts awareness raising activities in areas where child trafficking has been on the rise. A gang of women traffickers was dismantled in May by the criminal department of Kunduz. The perpetrators are currently in jail. It is believed that they are responsible for the trafficking of more than 50 women in the last 2 years. Other

follow up includes legal assistance for people who have been forced off their lands or evicted out of their houses.

On a national level, between April and June, CFA was involved in the drafting of a national plan of action to combat child trafficking, which will be presented to President Karzai in July 2004. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs together with UNICEF is the lead agency in this process.

In addition to the above activities, CFA has been involved in preparing for the first Afghan children's gathering together with Save the Children Federation, Afghan Aid and Mercy Corps. The gathering will take place in Mazar-i-Sharif in August, security permitting. Eighty children in total will participate, of whom 10 are from the communities CFA works in.

IV. RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE

- **A. Resources Committed** Budget report submitted under separate cover.
- **B.** Expenditures Budget report submitted under separate cover.

Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth The International Rescue Committee – Fourth Quarterly Report Jan – Mar 2004

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organization: The International Rescue	Date: 12 th July 200	04
Committee		
Mailing Address: House 61, Kochi Afghana,	Contact Person: Kath Camp	bell
Shash Darak, District 9, Kabul, Afghanistan		
Program Title: Child Protection and	Telephone: 070 278210)
Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children &	T 9 1 1 11/	O.4. :
Youth	E-mail: kcampbell(a)theirc.org
Country: Afghanistan	Reporting Period: April – Jun	ne 2004

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A. Goal:

To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.

Objectives:

- 1. Identify common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities.
- 2. Develop community based projects to address child protection threats.
- **3.** Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.
- **4.** Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

Due to the nature of the post war environment in Afghanistan all children are seen as being vulnerable. The protracted conflict and poverty stricken environment has resulted in a slow degradation in the ability of all families and communities to protect their children. There are undoubtedly groups of children who may be considered especially vulnerable however the numbers are relatively quite small and the situation is not as bad as might be expected. Due to the erosion of family and community coping mechanisms, all children are seen to be at risk and in need of support. This program seeks to improve children's psychosocial well-being and reduce threats to child protection by strengthening family and communities' abilities to protect and support their children, while at the same time addressing the needs of particularly vulnerable cases as they are identified.

B. Beneficiaries

17,800 children and families will directly benefit from this program through literacy courses; home based schooling; growing green spaces; child friendly spaces; mobile library membership, book and magazine distributions; health education initiatives; and income generation and skills training activities. It should be noted that a number of children and families will participate in more than one of these activities and therefore benefit from community based strategies designed to maximize impacts through a combined approach. The communities of Barmallan, Shabed and

Khargaltan consist of a number of sub-villages, some up to 5 kilometers apart. This has been reflected in the table below for the benefit of this quarterly report. It does not affect the number of beneficiaries served by this project, however it is reflected in the number of individual program activities including construction projects and Community Working Groups. Therefore, the number of communities targeted by this project totals 20 villages in 4 districts of Herat.

Beneficiary Numbers by Location & Activity to June 2004

Community	Population No. of Families	Activity	Beneficiaries Female	Beneficiaries Male	Total
Sange Sia Adraskan	63	Literacy Courses Book & Magazine Distribution Mobile Library Growing Green Nature Tailoring Course Community Center construction	122	100	122
		Child Friendly Space/Playground Well Construction Teacher Training			
Barmallan 2 Communities Barmallan Pain & Barmallan Bala Adraskan	68	Literacy Courses Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library Growing Green Nature Tailoring Courses Community Center construction (2), Child Friendly Space/Playground Well Construction Teacher Training	96	110	206
Kashafi Adraskan	40	Literacy Courses Book & Magazine Distribution Mobile Library Growing Green Nature Tailoring Courses Community Center construction Child Friendly Space/Playground Well Construction (2) Teacher Training	90	105	195
Shahbed Consisting of 4 sub-villages: Ponazar, Yaka Bid, Jaghna, & Mogholo Adraskan	180	Literacy Courses Book & Magazine Distribution Mobile Library Growing Green Nature Tailoring Course Community Center construction (4), Child Friendly Space/Playground Well Construction (3) Teacher Training	230	200	430
Eshaq Solaiman Enjil	1,500	Literacy Courses Book & Magazine Distribution Mobile Library Growing Green Nature, Tailoring Courses Sports team formation Sports equipment distribution Child Friendly Space/Playground	1,250	1,360	2,610
Oqab Enjil	850	Literacy Courses Book & Magazine Distribution Mobile Library Growing Green Nature Sports team formation Sports equipment distribution Child Friendly Space/Playground Child Friendly Circle	800	950	1,750
Sarwestan	1,300	Literacy Courses Literacy Course Participants	1,000	1,000	2,000

	1	D 10M ' D' ' '		I	1
Enjil		Book & Magazine Distribution			
		Mobile Library Growing Green Nature			
		Sports team formation			
		Sports equipment distribution			
		Child Friendly Space/Playground Child Friendly Circle			
Kharahaltan	127	Literacy Courses			
Kharghaltan	12/	Book & Magazine Distribution,			
Consisting of 3		Mobile Library			
communities		Growing Green Nature	268	210	478
including the sub-		Tailoring Courses	200	210	470
villages of		Sports team formation			
Cheshma Shorak		Sports equipment distribution,			
& Khaja Sarbor		Community Center construction (3),			
Enjil		Child Friendly Space/Playground			
Dehran	500	Literacy Courses			
Ghorian	200	Book & Magazine Distribution	500	550	1,050
Giloriun		Mobile Library			1
		Growing Green Nature			
		Sports team formation			
		Sports equipment distribution			
		Child Friendly Space/Playground			
		Selection for Animal Husbandry Project			
Estanoo	400	Literacy Courses			
Ghorian		Book & Magazine Distribution			
		Mobile Library	425	475	900
		Growing Green Nature			
		Tailoring Courses			
		Sports team formation			
		Sports equipment distribution			
		Child Friendly Space/Playground			
Baran Abad	2,500	Literacy Courses			
Ghorian		Book & Magazine Distribution,	1 400	1.600	2 000
		Mobile Library Growing Green Nature	1,400	1,600	3,000
		Tailoring Courses			
		Sports team formation			
		Sports equipment distribution			
		Child Friendly Space/Playground			
		Selection for Animal Husbandry Project			
Roshnan	450	Literacy Courses			
Ghorian	150	Book & Magazine Distribution			
SHOTIMII		Mobile Library	550	500	1,050
		Growing Green Nature			
		Tailoring Courses			
		Sports team formation			
		Sports equipment distribution			
	ļ	Child Friendly Space/Playground			
Shalbafan	5,000	Literacy Courses			
Herat City		Book & Magazine Distribution	4.000	4.6	
District 7		Mobile Library	1,300	1,300	2,600
		Growing Green Nature			
		Sports team formation			
		Sports equipment distribution			
		Child Friendly Space			
		School for the Blind			
C 1	1.300	Child Friendly Circle			
Gazergah	1,200	Literacy Courses	600	700	1 200
Herat City		Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library	600	700	1,300
District 8		Growing Green Nature			
		Sports team formation			
		Sports equipment distribution			
		Child Friendly Space			
		School for the Blind			
i	1	Sensor for the Dilliu			1

Total	14,098	8,631	9,160	17,791

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Goal - To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.

Objective 1: Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.

IRC Indicator & Current Measure

- 840 community members, of whom 560 were children, have participated in community based assessments in 20 communities in 4 districts of Herat province since August 2003.
- During the assessments the following participatory methods and tools were developed and utilized to identify risks and threats to children in partnership with targeted communities:
 - Risk Mapping, Body Mapping, & Tree Analysis (developed by the Save the Children Alliance).
 - Focus Group Discussions and subsequent content analysis of the narratives produced were used to identify underlying causal factors, their relationships to each other, and impacts on child well-being and development.
 - 56 Body Mapping exercises conducted.
 - o 56 Risk Mapping exercises conducted.
 - 560 Smiley Face Journals have been produced by children participating in the assessments.
- Communities identified the following issues as risks and threats to children's welfare and development through analysis of the outcomes of the assessments:

Access to education

Low literacy rates

Lack of green spaces and child friendly spaces for playing (including landmine issues)

Poverty, a lack of economic opportunities, (including issues of child labor)

Lack of access to potable water

Lack of access to healthcare and facilities

Early marriage

Wild/dangerous animals

• Information obtained through outcomes provided baseline data from which degrees of change and the impact of project activities will be measured. Specific indicators developed will examine differences in the content of the Smiley Face Journals (indicated by an increase in Smiley faces, and a decrease in Sad, Angry, and Worried/Anxious faces – around the themes identified from analysis of the initial 560 journals). Comparisons through narratives produced during Focus Group Discussions will also be measured. Mapping exercises will be repeated amongst children's groups to ascertain the degree of improvement on issues identified as posing challenges to child well being gauged through the outcomes of the initial mapping exercises. In addition program specific semi-structured interviews, questionnaires and household surveys will be developed as individual projects are implemented.

Objective 2 - Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed.

IRC Indicator and Current Measure

Community Working Groups and Youth Groups

- Community Working Groups (CWG's), focusing upon child welfare issues as identified through participatory assessments, have been established in all 20 communities.
- Total number of CWG members numbers 594, of whom 232 are female, 217 are male, 73 are girls (under 18), and 72 are boys (under 18).
- In addition to CWG's, 90 Community Workers are retained on a small stipend to oversee project implementation during the initial phase. Of the 90 Community Workers 40 are female, 40 are male, and 10 are youth (over 15 years of age).
- CRC trainings were conducted with 90 CWG members during the reporting period.
- 12 Youth groups, 6 female and 6 male were established in Sarwestan and Oqab during the last quarter. Each group has undertaken responsibility for independently managing specific projects, including Sports Teams, Community Libraries and Green Spaces.

Literacy Courses

- A total of 2,558 children, youth and women attended literacy courses facilitated through the IRC and the Herat Ministry of Education Literacy Department. Of this total 1,383 were boys and 1,175 were girls. This marks an overall increase in attendance of 65 % since the last reporting period, with a 53% increase for boys and an 81% increase for girls. In addition to an increase in literacy courses available, the significant rise in numbers of girls attending is due to the IRC Child Protection team working with the CWG's to facilitate focus group discussions and meetings regarding issues such as girl's education.
- 73 Literacy Course's are now running in all 20 communities, all of which have begun during the project period. 37 were initiated during the reporting period, an increase of 102% compared to the previous period.
- Literacy Teacher Trainings, facilitated through the Department of Literacy, were completed at
 the end of April. Forty one people from the communities of Gazergah, Enjil, and Shalbafan
 successfully completed the training. The training has enabled new literacy courses to begin
 and therefore accounts for the increase in numbers of children, youth, and women attending
 the courses.
- 2,482 Literacy Kits comprising notebooks, text books, pens, pencils, were distributed to support both new and existing literacy courses in all 20 communities during the reporting period. This brings the total number of Literacy Kit distributions to 4,982 since the beginning of project implementation.

Mobile Library, Book & Magazine Distributions

- The mobile library visited all 20 communities reaching a total of 4,670 children through the book sharer scheme. Management of the library visits was overseen by IRC staff who are currently training CWG members to implement the library membership, policy and sharer scheme. In addition to this the mobile library distributed 1,350 children's magazines during this quarter.
- 51 children, of whom 45 were girls, prepared stories, jokes, pictures, and poems for publication in the magazines.
- Small Community Libraries are in the process of being established in Eshaq Solaiman, Ghorian, and Obaq and Sarwestan. The libraries are an initiative of community youth groups who will manage the libraries and oversee lending policy.

Education

Construction of 11 Community Centers was completed in the districts of Adraskan, Ghorian
and Enjil. Ten of the Community Centers will primarily serve as venues for Home based
Schools, as none of the children in these communities currently have access to schooling.
However, they will also serve as locations for additional community activities when not being
used for schooling. The targeted communities provided labor during construction period and
have undertaken to maintain the buildings post construction. All 10 communities have agreed

- that girls up to sixth grade will have equal access to schooling when the Home Based School projects are operational.
- 12 community members have been selected for Teacher Training which will be provided through the Ministry of Education. Additional training in psychosocial issues, child focused teaching methodology, landmine awareness, gender equity, and behavior management will be provided by Unicef and IRC. Teacher training, in accordance with the national curriculum, will begin on 22nd July for one month. The Unicef training is for 5 days and is scheduled for the end of August. Only one of the teacher trainee's is female. This is due to low literacy rates in rural communities resulting in a shortage of women appropriate to be trained as teachers

Child Friendly Spaces/Playgrounds, Growing Green Spaces & Recreation Activities

- Playground equipment was installed, and painted by community members in a further 2 villages during the reporting period bringing the total number of Child Friendly Spaces with Playground equipment to 14 since the beginning of the project implementation cycle. Approximately 8,360 children regularly use the playgrounds of whom 3,965 are girls and 4,395 are boys. Two pieces of playground equipment had been broken in the village of Eshaq Solaiman however both pieces are now repaired through the CWG's.
- 7,000 children are participating in the Growing Green Spaces project, implemented through schools, CWG's and home based projects in all 20 targeted communities. In addition to the 2,031 horticultural items already distributed 2,069 Pine, Cedar, Cypress and Shemshad trees, and assorted flowers and gardening equipment including wheelbarrows, pitchforks, spades, trowels, and watering cans were distributed in 11 communities during the reporting period. Children planted and maintained the trees, shrubs and flowers in school yards, Child Friendly spaces, homes and public gardens which they had designed.
- Sports and recreation equipment was distributed to both boys and girls in all 20 targeted communities during the reporting period. Distributions included 114 sports wear kits for volleyball, 127 sports wear kits for football, 380 pairs of sports shoes, 82 balls (both for volleyball and football), 30 nets (goal and volleyball nets), 43 badminton sets, 48 flags, 35 whistles, 258 skipping ropes and 35 chess sets.
- 15 Football and 21 Volleyball teams have been established. The football teams are exclusively male however 9 of the 21 Volleyball teams are comprised of girls. This is an increase of 4 girl's teams since the last quarter with an overall increase of 12 teams established. The girls volley ball teams of Dehran and Barmallan have been playing against each other.
- A new initiative named by children, the "Child Friendly Circle" was initiated during the last quarter. The aim of the program is to bring together children from different communities targeted within this program to share experiences, opinions, and discuss the future for Afghan children and youth. Issues including Child to Child approaches incorporating child rights are an integral component of Child Friendly Circle activities. Children from different communities engage in games, competitions (not only sports, but arts, and yoghurt eating!), drama, songs, role plays, dance, and presentations. During the reporting period 4,800 children engaged in Child Friendly Circle Activities.

Income Generation & Skills Training

• 22 vulnerable mothers and 10 vulnerable fathers were trained in CEFE income generation methodology during this quarter. CEFE trainings are specifically aimed at semi literate and illiterate community members to enable them to start income generation and micro enterprise initiatives through a process of identifying and prioritizing skills and resources available within the community. As a result the following small business enterprises have been initiated with material inputs from IRC:

Animal Husbandry – 7 men Yoghurt Making – 11 women Tailoring – 7 women Battery Charging – 1 male Carpet Weaving – 1 female Plumbing – 2 men Hand Embroidery – 1 female Quilt Making – 1 female Crocheting Garments – 1 female

- 109 vulnerable women are attending Tailoring Courses in 14 of the 20 targeted communities. The Tailoring Courses are run by volunteers from the community to a standardized course curriculum. During the reporting period 65 Tailoring Kits, consisting of Sewing Machines, Scissors, Measuring Tapes, Boards, Wadding, Buttons, and Material were distributed.
- Communities have begun to identify vulnerable community members for inclusion in an animal husbandry program that will begin during the next reporting period. The Dutch Committee has been identified to train communities in animal husbandry techniques, and will oversee immunization programs of livestock. Vulnerable families will also be trained and mentored by experienced herdsmen and livestock farmers from within the community who will play an key role in the project. Each family will receive 5 goats. The project will be sustained through donation of 2 kids born per family for reinvestment in the project. To date 12 families have been identified in the communities of Dehran and Barnabad.

School for the Blind

• Construction of the School for the Blind for use by the Herat Association for the Blind (HAB) has been delayed due to problems over land allocation and the original plans having to be revised. Valued input from the Visually Impaired Services in Afghanistan (VISA), suggested increasing the number of classrooms but decreasing the dimensions, as visually impaired children need to be taught in small groups. The Ministry of Health also required the foundations to be strengthened in order that additional structures might be added to the building at a later date. Land adjacent to the Herat Eye Hospital has now been officially approved for construction and the plans have been authorized. The project has gone out to tender and the bids are currently being reviewed.

Water

• Water problems continued to be a major problem for the communities in Adraskan district. A lack of access to potable water has severe consequences on the health, hygiene, nutrition and local economies of Adraskan communities. As this impact had such dire consequences on the positive health, safety and development of Adraskan children, at a most fundamental level, it was decided to construct wells. An assessment was conducted by IRC engineers and as a result 7 wells will be constructed in all 6 of the Adraskan communities. Health issues regarding the prevention of water borne diseases and safe use and storage of potable water will be included in health and hygiene trainings within this project (details given in next section).

Objective 3 - Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

IRC Indicator & Current Measure

• In response to a number of sick and malnourished women and children identified in a number of targeted communities health assessments were conducted by the IRC Health Coordinator assisted by the Child Protection team. Preventative health education programs and traditional birth attendant (TBA) trainings have been developed by the IRC Health Program. CWG's, under the supervision of the IRC Health Coordinator, have identified women appropriate for training as community health workers. Two Community Health Educators have been hired and are currently undergoing training by the IRC Health Team. Visual aids for use by Community Health Workers are under development. It is envisaged that 5 of the communities with the most vulnerable women and children can be targeted within the remaining project lifetime. Training of community health workers and the establishment of Community Health Committees will begin during the next reporting period.

Objective 4 - Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

IRC Indicator & Current Measure

- 8 regional Inter-agency Child Protection Network meetings have been facilitated and chaired by the IRC since September 2003, 2 within the reporting period. Issues addressed by the meetings have included juvenile justice, deportee children, road traffic safety and awareness, child labor, child kidnapping and child trafficking.
- Due to advocacy initiatives by the IRC in partnership with War Child regarding concerns over children held in the Herat Detention Center, an assessment was conducted by both partner agencies at the request of the Detention Center supported by Unicef. A direct outcome of the assessment was an agreement from the Governor of Herat to the appointment of a Juvenile Judge and allocation of land for the establishment of an 'Open Center'. A number of children are having cases reviewed and 2 children, who had not been accused of any crime but were kidnap victims, were transferred to the local orphanage whilst family tracing was undertaken. IRC and War Child continue to visit the detention center on a weekly basis and are working with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) to ensure children's rights are upheld and cases are followed up.

IV. RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE

- **A.** Resources Committed Budget report submitted under separate cover.
- **B.** Expenditures Budget report submitted under separate cover.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – SAVE THE CHILDREN

Organization: Sav	ve the Children US	Date: 10 July, 2004				
Mailing Address:	Darulman Main Road	Contact Person: Susan Erb				
	Sherkat Bus Stop		Kabul Program Manager			
	Ayoob Khan Mena		070 298 247			
	Kabul, Afghanistan	Email:	serb@afg.savechildren.org			
Program Title:	Child Protection and Psychoso	cial Support Progra	ım			
Country:	Afghanistan					
Period Covered by	Period Covered by this Report: April – June 2004					

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A. Save the Children US (SC/US) Program Goal and Objectives – To enhance children's well being by increasing community-based capacity for children's protection and psychosocial support

SC/US programs for psychosocial support of children are based on the belief that adequate child protection must include the protection of children's emotional and social well being. Currently, protection concerns for Afghan children far outstrip the capacity of child-focused agencies in Afghanistan. This project seeks to enhance children's well being by increasing community-based capacity for children's protection and psychosocial support. SC/US is reducing and resolving threats to children's well-being by mobilizing children and community members to take action on issues identified and prioritized by children.

B. Beneficiaries

Updated beneficiary actuals are 1,118 children as direct beneficiaries of *Child to Child* groups. Indirect beneficiaries – siblings, friends, and neighbors - are estimated to total 8,000.

Cooperative Agreement EEE-A-000-03-000019 Fifth Quarterly Report April-June 2004

C. Locations - Three districts of Kabul city and Shomali valley

Province	District	Village	Activity	Start	Beneficiaries	Promoters
Kabul	12	Arzan Qimat	 48 Child to Child (CtC) groups (3 groups of 16), action against threats to friendship and the environment taken New topic of physical safety introduced, children preparing for Step four community presentations 	April 2003	384: Blocks 1 2 5 boys 60 37 26 girls 68 91 102	Jamila, Toorpakai, Suhila
Kabul	6	Char Qala / Qala Wazir	16 CtC groups, action against threats to friendship and the environment taken New topic of physical safety introduced, children preparing for Step four community presentations	April 2003	128: 93 boys, 35 girls	Karima Najmi
Kabul	Shi Khan Shomali	Mirachs Kot	16 CtC groups, action against threats to friendship and the environment taken New topic of physical safety introduced, children preparing for Step four community presentations	April 2003	131: 82 boys, 49 girls	Abdul Safa
Kabul	7	Gangalak/ Moosihee	16 CtC groups created, actions against threats to the environment taken New topic of physical safety introduced, children preparing for Step four community presentations	September 2003	131: 103 boys, 28 girls	Austad Taleb
Kabul	7	Dogh Abad	16 CtC groups created, actions against threats to the environment taken New topic of physical safety introduced, children preparing for Step four community presentations	September 2003	128: 56 boys, 72 girls	Dr. Wali
Kabul	7	Qala Shir Khan	 14 CtC groups created, actions against threats to the environment taken New topic of physical safety introduced, children preparing for Step four community presentations 	September 2003	88: 55 boys, 33 girls	Zekria
Kabul	7	Rish Khoor / Gul Bagh	 15 CtC groups created, actions against threats to the environment taken New topic of physical safety introduced, children preparing for Step four community presentations 	September 2003	128: 62 boys, 66 girls	Austad Admad Shah

TOTALS 1,118 = 574 boys / 544 girls

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Goal – To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.

SC/US is implementing *Child to Child* programs to mobilize children to take actions on identified threats by (1) giving them the knowledge to improve their situation, (2) encouraging them to become active in helping focus community intervention and (3) eliciting parents' and community leaders' support to make changes. *Step Four* of the six step *Child to Child* program gives children are forum to voice their concerns to parents, extended family members and community leaders. Issues affecting children's well being are presented through songs, role plays and story telling during an open community meeting. To ensure that children involved in these programs see real changes relative to the issues they identify, SC/US is mobilizing parent and youth committees to support *Child to Child* programs by implementing practical solutions to the issues.

During quarter five, emphasis was placed on both increasing the number of active committees and increasing the level of women's participation, particularly in District 7 and Shi Khan where girls are allowed to attend the *Child to Child* groups, but where adult female participation is strongly discouraged. To this end, community promoters were successful in establishing women's and girl's youth committees in all locations. See Appendix A for parent and youth committee participation.

As part of an internal SC/US program learning workshop held in May, SC/US child protection staff identified four strategies which would improve their program impact. Firstly, staff were concerned that all stakeholders involved in the community committees would actively be addressing the issues raised by children. Second, that all community members had an equal amount of men, women and youth participants, thirdly, all children would be actively involved in all activities organized as part of the CtC groups.

Objective 1 – Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.

Nine communities in Kabul and the Shomali Valley implement *Child to Child* programs. In five communities the first cycle of programming, addressing friendship concerns, began in the summer of 2003. The second cycle of *Child to Child* programming in these communities commenced in October 2003. In four other communities, *Child to Child* programming began in October 2003. This current cycle of Child to Child activities is looking at the topic of physical safety and addressing those threats to children's well-being which arise from dangers to their safety. Follow-up activities to threats to the environment were also taken by communities during this reporting period.

A total of 1,118 children (574 boys/544 girls) participate in 141 *Child to Child* groups in nine communities in Kabul and the Central Region. During this quarter, threats to physical safety were identified by children as the topic for this *Child to Child* cycle. Focus groups discussions were held during April and May to identify what specific concerns children have about their physical safety; four areas were cited by children: child abuse, child labor, dangerous and unhealthy living conditions, and lack of opportunity. Responses are noted in the table below:

Province	District	Village	Issues noted by children in Child to Child Groups
Kabul	12	Arzan Qimat	Child abuse
Kabul	6	Char Qala / Qala Wazir	Child Abuse • beating of children at school • beating of children at water pumps • Carelessness of parents to children • Elder brothers not allowing sisters to go to school Dangerous / unhealthy living conditions • Lack of traffic police near school • Lack of drinking water in school Lack of opportunity • Not attending school because of having to work
Kabul	Mirachs Kot Shomali	Shi Khan	Child Abuse • beating of children by elder brothers • child trafficking Dangerous / unhealthy living conditions • Health problems – 'being sick' • Lack of decent shelter (homes destroyed during the fighting) Lack of opportunity • Not attending school because of pressure on families by community elders
Kabul	7	Gangalak/ Moosihee	Child Abuse

			Lack of opportunity
			Not being allowed to attend school because of work in the home
Kabul	7	Dogh Abad	Child Abuse • beating of children at home by family members • beating of children at school by teachers Child labor • fetching water Dangerous / unhealthy living conditions • Health problems – 'being sick' • Lack of decent shelter (homes destroyed during the fighting) • traffic Lack of opportunity • Not attending school because of distance from home
Kabul	7	Qala Shir Khan	Child Abuse • beating and bothering of children on the way to school Child labor
Kabul	7	Rish Khoor / Gul Bagh	Child Abuse • beating by village adults

Children were involved in presenting Step 4 to the communities during the month of June.

District	Area	Problem	Message
12	B1 - 4 B2 -6 B3 - 5	 Lack of classroom space, often outside for lesson and little or no materials Kidnapping of children 	 Build a new school in the village and help provide basic equipment for learning Increased security in the area so that children can walk around safely and not be afraid.
		Having to go long distance for water	That there is more accessible water close to their homes
7	Mushai	Beaten by teachersKidnapping of children	 Teachers respect children and find other ways to punish children instead There needs to be greater punishment for kidnappers and greater
		Road safety	public awareness about this issue • A traffic police officer should be assigned to their district
7	Doughabad	Hard labor in the home	Parents respect the children's rights to study and not to always be working. Also, employees don't reduce

		Children beaten by parents	the wages of men, because this causes families to send the children out to work. Listen to the children rather than beating a child
7	Gulbagh	 Children beaten by parents Child trafficking 	 Encourage parents to not beat their children or make them do heavy labor at home. Children are afraid of trafficking and request a school closer to their district to reduce the risk
7	Qala Sharkhan	 Children beaten by parents and teachers Hard labor and selling goods on the street 	 Ask parents and teachers to stop beating children and respect their views. Request that parents actually do the hard labor and earn money for the family rather than sending the children out to do the work
Mirbachakote	Shaikhan Shamali	Children beaten by parents.Child trafficking	 Ask parents to stop beating their children Request more security in the area and awareness on the issue to all the community.
6	Charaqal	 Lack of working water hand pumps Skin disease Lack of local medical facilities 	 Repair the hand pumps that are not working Clean up the area and remove rubbish from the streets Establish a medical clinic in the community

Action plans will be developed during July with the community groups as a follow up of Step 4 presentations.

Objective 2 – Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed

During Q4, children from *Child to Child* groups presented specific concerns to adults and community leaders on threats caused by environmental issues: poor road conditions, lack of

appropriate places to dispose of rubbish, lack of services to remove rubbish, safe areas to play, no electricity, fighting over drinking water availability due to lack of (working) water pumps and wells, and low quality of potable water. Specific community follow-up on these concerns has been as follows.

- District 7 three municipality vehicles removed rubbish from solid waste areas in Moosihee
- District 7 municipality has promised to provide vehicles monthly to remove rubbish
- Gul Bagh parents' committee representatives met with Ministry of Water and Power to inquire about the possibility of their providing electricity cables in District 6 and 7. The Ministry cited financial limitations as a reason not to take action, but negotiations continue. Parents' committee members have also asked ADA and IAM if they could put in a dynamo to provide electricity.
- District 12 a representative from the District 12 mothers committees met with the principle of the Ibrahim Khilullah high school, who delegated two teachers to cooperate with the mothers committee representative to contact the Ministry of Education to address the issues of a lack of clean drinking water and insufficient classroom space at the school. The Officer in Charge of Kabul City schools has promised to solve the problems.

The following issues were raised by children in CTC groups which needed financial support to solve, quotes have been submitted and construction work is underway at the moment.

- As noted in quarters three and four, children are concerned with the lack of accessible clean water in communities. To this end, 20 wells were dug in the previous reporting period – 16 in Dogh Abad and Kali Shir Khan, and 3 in Gul Bagh and 1 in Char Qala High School.
- Dig one well in Charqala high school to provide clean water for 6,000 school going children (they attend classes in three shifts)
- 1 playground has been completed in Gul Bagh, it was completed on 6th June 2004 2233 children benefit from the playground
- Build seven solid waste disposal sites in District 7 four in Dough abad and three in Shairkhan, which will be used by 17,500 children.

Other issues arising:

- Build three bridges in Mirbachakote District Shamali area
- Build one school and one clinic in District 7 in Gulbagh and Musahee

These community priorities demand both a substantial financial investment as well as full cooperation with the Ministries of Health and Education (who dictate conditions for both school and clinic construction). Thus, parents and youth committees are contact the relevant government and NGOs to help address these issues..

TRAFFIC

In addition, the SC/US team has held four focus groups discussions with children from Districts 6, 7, 12 and Shomali regarding traffic safety concerns. SC/US also held a focus group discussion with the SC/US Kabul drivers to gauge their perceptions of children and traffic safety. Concerns raised by the children include: traffic police not paying attention to them, speeding vehicles, lack of understanding of how to cross the road safely, poor bicycle safety (the children get knocked off their bikes by fast drivers), lack of safe places to walk due to pushcarts blocking the sidewalk, abuse by teachers for being late (due to delays in getting to school caused by heavy and dangerous traffic), and general feelings of vulnerability. These responses will comprise the basis of a curriculum to be developed in Q5 and used with children in the *Child-to-Child* groups to increase safety awareness and with Kabul traffic police to enable them to be more child friendly and child focused in their daily work. SC/US plans to partner with the Kabul Traffic Police to integrate traffic safety into traffic police training and replicate this training for all traffic police in urban and peri-urban areas of Afghanistan.

Objective 3 – Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

SC/US Indicator and Current Measure:

Communities identify particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in need of special assistance –

Through CPAN, a referral system will be developed in which definitions of 'extremely vulnerable children' will be established and systems of response to address the needs of children implemented. This can only be done effectively once the CPAN system is functional and partner agencies have agreed to cooperate (refer objective 4).

Improvements planned by the CiC team during the PLG CiC team identified the problems as:

- 1. People had not listened to the voice of the child
- 2. Collecting the ideas off vulnerable children
- 3. Obtain the highest measure of percentage of children through the facilitators/ promoters
- 4. Mobilize community if we mobilize the community it will be more sustainable.

Solution

- 1. improve the ability of promoters and encourage them to work, giving special attention for the program and the meaning of the program
- 2. Take the vulnerable children as equal right in the child to child groups. Vulnerable children will represent their problems like the other children do. Equal participation
- 3. it is needed that staff honesty and patience to the program and the community. Promoters, volunteers, officers etc.
- 4. necessary that the parent and youth committees are encouraged to mobilize their community, taking ownership for the work that they are doing.

Objective 4 – Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

CPAN aims to coordinate child protection issues – and address specific issues raised by children-with other partner agencies operating in the central region of Afghanistan, including government ministries, INGOs, local NGOs and UN agencies. In addition, SC/US is cooperating with other regional CPANs to coordinate advocacy and action and ensure consistent and shared documentation of child protection activities. CPAN has met monthly since April 2004. Thirty organizations were initially invited to participate through the central region CPAN. To date, a dozen local NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, and the Afghan Independent Human rights Commission have been participated. Representatives from MoLSA, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Transportation, the Kabul Police Department initially agreed to participate, however their attendance has been sporadic. In May, questionnaires were distributed to all participants. These questionnaire will form the basis of a Service Resource Database which will identify available services with specific agencies. When referral issues are then raised by community members, they can refer to CPAN and quickly identify those specific facilities and/or resources³ which can best address the issues of these most vulnerable children and their families. This database will be completed the end of July 2004.

At the conclusion of every monthly meeting and action plan is formulated. Two issues per month are discussed in detail and action plans detailing a time frame and who will be responsible for following up on that action. During the month when actions are completed on the action plans, emails are forwarded to all participants regarding progress.

Meeting with MOLSA

Over the past three months SC/US has been involved in discussion with children and with MoLSA regarding change in policy for the well being of children. The first visit with children took place in May 2004 after the international child workers day in Kabul, Olympic stadium. Children from organizations around Kabul collected signatures asking for greater support from the government for child workers and recognition that the children had a right to be protected in their work. Children met with the deputy minister and presented 1131 signatures from other children.

SC/US as part of Save the Children Alliance are also part of the task force working on issues with MoLSA about child protection issues. MoLSA chairs these monthly meetings, and the issue currently being discussed for 3 months is that of the attitude of police officers towards children in Afghanistan. Action plans are also being put into place with MoLSA.

Traffic – Minister of Interior Affairs; traffic police presentation with 400 traffic police SC/US has carried out a number of focus group discussions over the past few months. These discussions have been with children from the child to child groups, street working children, drivers, community committees and traffic police. Once all the focus group discussions were complete we shared this information with the traffic police and the ministry of Interior affairs. It was agreed with the Ministry of Education, the department of Traffic police and the deputy minister of Interior affairs that a curriculum for teaching children about how to cross the roads safely and what road signs mean was essential, if, children were to become safer on the roads. In

³ CPAN also carried out a survey to determine agency counseling capacity. Results will be included in the larger CPAN database.

addition, it would also be important to train the traffic police to become more "child friendly", encourage them to help children, and take the time to teach them about road safety.

At the beginning of May a group of children from the child to child groups performed role plays in-front of all 400 traffic police who work in Kabul city. The children acted out their fears about crossing the road and their perceptions of traffic police and the roles that they played. The traffic police were very attentive during the role plays and had positive discussions at the end of the role plays. The traffic police were also given a blue ribbon butterfly after this event and they were encouraged to wear the butterfly to show their support for being "child friendly". Over the next couple of weeks SC/US received feedback both from the children and from other organizations that they had seen an improvement in the attitude of traffic police towards children.

By the end of August all the traffic police within will have received a one day training course on being more child friendly and ideas on how to help children become safer on the roads.

SC/US is also working with the education department from within the traffic police department, children from the focus group discussions and ministry of education to develop the curriculum for road safety classes within the schools. The material for these classes should be complete and printed by the end of July 2004.

Ministry of Water and Power - refer to actions from CPAN, refer local NGO follow-up One of the first issues raised during the CPAN meeting came from a local NGO, regarding, exposed electricity wires and cables. These cables had electrocuted a number of children and children had heard of other children who had been either badly burnt or killed by these wires. These exposed cables are near to schools and are in areas where children are usually playing. This local NGO had visited the ministry of water and power but had received no assistance, it was decided that CPAN should formulate an action plan to address this issue. A group of CPAN representatives arranged to meet with the deputy minister for water and power, letters from the children and parents had been collected and shared with the ministry of power and water. Also CPAN organized for a survey to be completed of the areas where children had raised concerns to present to the ministry. After the meeting the deputy minister agreed that action needed to be taken but a survey by the ministry themselves needed to be completed. That survey has now been completed, but, it contained the costing for covering all electric cables in Kabul. CPAN requested that we receive costing for emergency covers on these 12 cables that were in a dangerous area for children. That information has been collected and shared with CPAN participants. To encourage the ministry to address this problem, it was then arranged that 25 children with representatives from CPAN would go and meet with the ministry of water and power, the children had drawn pictures of their concerns and also had written letters to the ministry. The deputy minister promised to inform the minister of these problems and present the minister with all the letters and photos. After that meeting, action was taken by the ministry and 3 of the 12 exposed cables have been covered over. CPAN is continuing to support the ministry of water and power to continue covering up these exposed cables and is also seeking the assistance of Cimic groups and other organizations to financially assist the ministry.

The *Butterfly Campaign*, begun in December 2003, aims to highlight a global, shared responsibility to protect Afghan children. SC/US and its Alliance partners are encouraging all Afghans to wear a blue butterfly-shaped ribbon as a symbol of their awareness of and commitment to take concrete action to protect children against abuse of the human rights. Since December 2003, SC/US and partners have distributed 25,000 ribbons, including 400 to the Kabul traffic police and 80 to members of the government including senior members of the Ministry of Justice, MoLSA, Ministry of Interior Affairs, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. For International child workers day the children decided that their symbol would be a larger blue ribbon butterfly, 1400 children wore their butterfly that day. The media who filmed the event were also able to explain the importance of the butterfly during they broadcasting of the event.

June 1st was National children's day for Afghanistan, MoLSA had arranged a series of activities for children, again they had requested from Save the Children alliance that they could also have everybody who attended events and participated wear a blue ribbon butterfly. Again, TV stations from Kabul broadcasted this event and explained the message of the butterfly campaign to the general public.

IV. RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE

- **A. Resources Committed** Budget report submitted under separate cover.
- **B.** Expenditures Budget report submitted under separate cover.

APPENDIX A

Parents and Youth groups in nine locations: three districts of Kabul city and Shomali valley

June 30th 2004

Province	District	Village	Parents Groups	Youth Groups
Kabul	12	Arzan Qimat	24 groups	15 groups
			42 men	33 men
			52 women	47 women
Kabul	6	Char Qala / Qala Wazir	2 groups	2 groups
			6 men	4 men
			4 women	4 women
Kabul	Mirachs	Shi Khan	5 groups	7 groups
	Kot		20 men	27 men
	Shomali		7 women	10 women
Kabul	7	Gangalak/ Moosihee	6 groups	4 groups
			14 men	22 men
			20 women	8 women
Kabul	7	Dogh Abad	6 groups	5 groups
			14 men	16 men
			16 women	11 women
Kabul	7	Qala Shir Khan	6 groups	4 groups
Kabui			15 men	10 men
			14 women	10 women
Kabul	7	Rish Khoor / Gul Bagh	11 groups	7 groups
			38 men	32 men
			22 women	12 women
Total			(0	44
Groups			60 groups	44 groups
_			149 men	144 men
# Men			149 111011	144 111611
# Women			135 women	102 women